

Libby

THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL
OF MARKET RASEN

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

R. J. R. MECREDY, B.A., M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.

and of the

SANITARY INSPECTOR AND SURVEYOR

ARTHUR E. SWEETING

Part-time Additional Sanitary Inspector :

C. KING

for the Year

1955

Public Health and General Purposes Committee—

**Councillor G. W. WALSHAM (Chairman), with all the
Members of the Council.**

Medical Officer of Health—

R. J. R. MECREDY, B.A., M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector—

ARTHUR E. SWEETING

Part-time Additional Sanitary Inspector—

C. KING

To the Chairman and Members of the MARKET RASEN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Nettleship and Gentlemen,

I wish to submit my Annual Report for the year 1955.

With the exception of one case of measles the Urban District was free from the commoner epidemic diseases. It should be noted that 85·8% of the children examined in the schools in Market Rasen have been immunised against diphtheria. This is a marked improvement on the position ten years ago.

The causes of death are comparable with those of the country as a whole, with diseases of the heart and circulatory system in the lead and malignant diseases also fairly numerous.

The general health of the children attending school remains good. It seems unlikely that the population of the Urban District will show much change in the future. The tendency seems to have been for new housing to spread on the roads leading into adjoining parishes.

An interesting point to note is that the average number of occupants per house is now 2·7.

The purity of the untreated water from the Tealby springs remains very good and the pressure has improved considerably.

During the previous year the re-opening of private slaughterhouses led to an increase in the volume of work carried out by the Sanitary Inspector. This was met by the part-time employment of Mr. C. King. With the advent of Mr. A. E. Sweeting as Sanitary Inspector it has been possible to review the housing situation, and I have to compliment him for his rapid adjustment, in other respects, to his new post.

Thanks are also due to Mr. King for his assistance in the meat inspection and other duties.

I again wish to express my thanks to you, Sir, and the Members of your Committee, for the courtesy and help I have received in the performance of my duties.

I have the honour to be

Your obedient Servant,

R. J. R. MECREDY,

Medical Officer of Health.

VITAL AND GENERAL STATISTICS

Land	972 acres
Water	4 acres
Population (Census 1921)	2178
Population (Census 1931)	2048
Population (Census 1951)	2133
Population (Estimated 1955)	2150
Habitable Houses (Census 1931)	611
Habitable Houses (Estimated 1955)	791

The rateable value of the Urban District on the 1st April, 1955 was £12,561 and the product of the penny rate was £51 1s. 2d. for the year ending 31st March, 1955.

The considerable increase in the number of housing units since 1931 has led to a great diminution in the overcrowding of houses that existed during the war years. New houses available since 1945 total 117, while 21 houses have been closed.

The average number of occupants for each house is now 2.7.

VITAL STATISTICS

There has only been one death of an infant this year.

Births and deaths again are virtually equal in numbers.

There has obviously been little natural increase of the population over a number of years. The proportion of elderly people living in the town is high, which accounts for the relatively high number of deaths.

Extracts from the Vital Statistics for the Year 1955

Total live births	39	
Illegitimate births	Nil	
Birth rate per 1,000 estimated resident population (Corrected)	19.7	For England and Wales 15.0
Total deaths	36	
Death rate per 1,000 estimated resident population	10.6	For England and Wales 11.7
Deaths of infants under one year of age	1	
Deaths from puerperal causes	Nil	
Stillbirths	3	
Deaths from malignant neoplasms	6	
Deaths from disease of the heart and circulatory system	15	

Notifiable Diseases

One case of measles and one of pulmonary tuberculosis were notified during the year. In spite of an extremely high incidence of measles in the surrounding Rural Eistrict, only one case occurred in the Urban District.

Whooping Cough was also fairly prevalent outside the Urban area.

41 children were immunised against diphtheria. 7 received a "booster" dose.

20 children were immunised against whooping cough.

20 children were vaccinated against smallpox.

An evaluation of the 232 school children examined in the schools in Market Rasen showed that 85.8% were protected against diphtheria.

HEALTH AND WELFARE OF SCHOOLCHILDREN

117 children were treated at the School Clinic at Market Rasen during the year. As in previous years the majority of these were suffering from debility, anaemia, substandard nutrition and bronchitic conditions. Two children with impetigo were treated. No other infections or contagious disease was seen. In general, it can be said that the health of the children seen in the schools was good.

Dental caries remains the most important defect.

CAUSES OF DEATHS

		Males	Females
1.	Tuberculosis, Respiratory	..	..
2.	Tuberculosis, other forms	..	..
3.	Syphilitic disease	..	..
4.	Diphtheria	..	..
5.	Whooping Cough	..	..
6.	Meningococcal infections	..	..
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	..	..
8.	Measles	..	..
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	..	..
10.	Malignant Neoplasm, stomach	..	1
11.	Malignant Neoplasm, lung, bronchus		Nil
12.	Malignant Neoplasm, breast	..	..
13.	Malignant Neoplasm, uterus	..	..
14.	Other Malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	1	4
15.	Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	..	..
16.	Diabetes	..	..
17.	Vascular lesions of the nervous system	..	1
18.	Coronary disease, Angina	..	..
19.	Hypertension with Heart Disease	..	Nil
20.	Other heart disease	..	3
21.	Other circulatory disease	..	2
22.	Influenza	..	..
23.	Pneumonia	..	..
24.	Bronchitis	..	..
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system	..	Nil
26.	Ulcers of the stomach and duodenum	..	Nil
27.	Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	..	Nil
28.	Nephritis and Nephrosis	..	1
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	..	..
30.	Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	..	—
31.	Congenital malformations	..	Nil
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	..	3
33.	Motor Vehicle accidents	..	..
34.	All other accidents	..	Nil
35.	Suicide	..	..
36.	Homicide and operations of War	..	Nil
Total Deaths		18	18

It should be noted that 15 of the 36 deaths recorded were from diseases of the heart and circulatory system while 6 deaths were recorded from malignant diseases.

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

1. Mental Illness

Treatment is arranged in conjunction with the Regional Hospital Board. Supervision and after care is carried out by specially trained workers employed by the County Council.

Mental Defectives

The County Council through the Regional Hospital Board makes arrangements for the institutional care of mental defectives.

The County Council remains responsible for the care and supervision of mentally defectives in their own homes. This work is carried out by the Health Visitors.

2. Laboratory Facilities

These are provided at the Public Health Laboratory, 8 St. Anne's Road, Lincoln, and at Grimsby and District Hospital. Diphtheria Anti-toxin, Antityphoid Serum and Scarlet Fever Streptococcus Anti-toxin can be supplied from the above Laboratories.

3. Ambulance Facilities, Under National Fire Service

An ambulance can be obtained either through the patient's Doctor or Nurse, or in the event of emergency by asking the Telephone Operator for the Ambulance Station.

SUMMARY (for reference) OF NURSING ARRANGEMENTS, HOSPITALS AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS AVAILABLE FOR THE DISTRICT.

Nursing in the Home

All District Nurses now come under the authority of the Lindsey County Council.

Clinics and Treatment Centres

Treatment and after care of tubercular cases now come under the Regional Hospital Board. Nearest clinic is at Lincoln. School Clinics remain under the charge of the Lindsey County Council.

School Clinic Market Rasen

Every Tuesday, 10 a.m. — 12 a.m.

Orthopaedic Clinic

2 p.m. every fourth Tuesday in month.

Dental Clinic

At Market Rasen for mothers and children.

Midwifery and Maternity Services

Administered by the Lindsey County Council.

Health Visitors

The duties of the above are performed through the Lindsey County Council.

Infant Life Protection

The duties of the above are performed through the Lindsey County Council.

Registration of Nursing Homes is controlled by the Lindsey County Council.

Home Help Services

Full-time and part-time home helps are now available in the District, arranged for by the Lindsey County Council.

HOUSING

The number of council houses remains the same as last year, viz., 112 on the Wold View Estate. One privately built house was constructed during the year. Housing development continues on the roads leading into Market Rasen but outside its boundary.

21 houses have been closed in the District since 1945.

During the year improvements were made to some houses to the satisfaction of the Inspector.

WATER SUPPLIES

There are 522 houses with indoor water installation. 269 are still dependent upon standpipes.

The completion of the reservoir at Hamilton Hill should lessen the unduly high water pressure in the town. This high pressure is probably one of the causes of a considerable waste of water in the area.

19 samples of water examined for bacterial contamination showed 18 satisfactory results. One test was unsatisfactory. A copy of the one chemical analysis made is appended.

CERTIFICATE OF ANALYSIS

The Sample of Water marked Market Rasen Supply, Caistor R.D.C.

Received from The Caistor Rural District Council, Caistor, Lincs.
On the 8th July, 1955.

Has been examined with the following results :—

	Parts per million						
pH Value	7·4
Total solids	412·0
Free Ammonia as N	0·018
Albuminoid Ammonia as N	0·016
Nitrogen as Nitrates	2·4
Nitrogen as Nitrites	nil
Chlorides as Cl	27·0
Alkalinity as CaCO ₃	285·0
Oxygen absorbed from n/80 Permanganate in 4 hours					0·130
Calcium as CaO	189·0
Magnesium as MgO	8·2
Sulphates as SO ₃	54·9

Possible Combination of Salts in Solution :

Calcium Sulphate	..	..	..	..	..	..	9·40
Calcium Carbonate	..	..	..	..	..	..	26·90
Magnesium Carbonate	..	..	..	..	..	..	1·72
Sodium Chloride	..	..	..	..	..	..	4·45

This is a somewhat hard water of excellent quality chemically.

J. R. HUNECKE, B.Sc. (Hons.), A.R.I.C.,
Consulting Analyst.

SANITATION AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

There were seven conversions made from pail to W.C.'s during the year. There are still 143 premises dependent on the pail or vault privy.

Conversion proceeds very slowly for an Urban District with a long established sewage system.

The 38 houses which still rely on vault privies undoubtedly cause a nuisance in the hot weather.

A new pump was installed at the Sewage Works during the year and has led to greater reliability in the pumping up of the sewage.

Mr. Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit to you my first Annual Report showing the work carried out by the public health side of the Department.

Whilst some progress was made during the year, there is much yet to be done, particularly in the field of sanitation.

The ready co-operation of most of those with whom I had to deal, viz., property owners, butchers, shopkeepers, builders and others was most helpful and resulted in a good deal of work being carried out without the need of formal action.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Council, the Clerk, Medical Officer of Health and Mr. King for the valuable help given and consideration shown during the year.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

ARTHUR E. SWEETING,
Sanitary Inspector.

HOUSING

As required by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government, a Housing Survey was carried out during the year in order to ascertain the number of houses in the area which are unfit and should be demolished.

During the survey 11 houses were found which it was considered could not be repaired at a reasonable cost, and it was decided that these should be demolished within the next five years.

By the end of the year three had been demolished and one closed.

It was also noticed that many of the smaller properties have had no maintenance repairs carried out at them for some long time, and it is quite evident that unless several of these receive attention fairly soon they will deteriorate to such an extent as to be incapable of repair at a reasonable cost.

For this reason a house to house survey of the smaller type properties is being carried out and already a number of informal notices have been served on owners requiring them to carry out essential repairs.

Improvement Grants

It is disappointing to have to report that, despite a good deal of publicity, only one application for an improvement grant was received during the year.

However, continued efforts will be made to encourage property owners to take advantage of the scheme because, it is felt, once a real start is made it will gain momentum.

MEAT AND FOODS

As will be judged by the figures given elsewhere in this report, meat inspection has taken up a considerable amount of time, and I am pleased to be able to report that it was possible to inspect every animal slaughtered.

The five premises where slaughtering is carried on must be considered satisfactory and at three of these considerable improvements were carried out, bringing the premises up to a very good standard.

With regard to the quality of meat sold by the butchers of Market Rasen, this must be described as excellent — it appears the butchers show no interest in anything but the best.

Considering the number of animals slaughtered, it will be seen that very little meat was found to be unfit for food and what was condemned, except in a few instances, were mainly organs or small parts.

I would here like to pay tribute to the butchers and slaughtermen for their excellent co-operation throughout the year. In work of this nature it is to be expected that differences may arise between butchers and officials, but I am pleased to report that there was not one instance of real disagreement during the year.

It is sincerely hoped this happy relationship, which makes the work much easier for everyone, continues in the future.

FOOD PREPARING AND MAKING UP PLACES

In view of the reported outbreaks of food poisoning in various parts of Britain a watchful eye was kept on premises where food is prepared or made up. No serious contravention of the rules of hygiene was discovered and, generally speaking, the premises are satisfactory.

During the year one or two premises were modernised and improved and there is little doubt that this work, apart from providing more hygienic conditions reduces labour costs.

Owners of other premises will be encouraged to do likewise.

PRIVY CONVERSIONS

Despite publicity regarding the financial help available it is regrettable that so few conversions (7) have been carried out during the year.

This number is about the same as for 1953 and 1954, but nevertheless I think that considerably more should be done.

During the coming year the job of trying to persuade owners to take advantage of the scheme will be intensified.

RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION

A considerable number of properties were surveyed during the year and no major infestations were discovered.

In one or two instances rats in small numbers were found and the work of clearing these was carried out by the Joint Operator at the expense of the occupiers of the properties.

Your refuse tip received treatment and the sewers were test baited, but no rats found.

STATISTICS

Housing

No. of new houses erected during year (Private enterprise) .. 1

Inspection of dwellings

No. of dwellings inspected for housing defects 439
 No. of inspections made for the purpose 632

Remedy of defects

No. of premises rendered fit in consequence of informal action .. 112

Action under Statutory Powers

Housing Act, 1936, Part IV

No. of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year 1

Housing Act, 1949

Application for grants received 1

Moveable Dwellings

No. licensed 2
 No. of inspections during year 9

FOOD PREMISES

Bakehouses

No. in district	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
No. of inspections	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	36
No. of contraventions	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
No. of defects remedied	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1

Ice Cream

No. of premises licensed for the sale of Ice Cream	..	..	14
No. of inspections of premises made	..	..	42
No. of contraventions	..	..	Nil

Meat Products

No. of premises registered for manufacture	..	..	..	7
No. of inspections of premises made	..	..	..	84
No. of contraventions found	..	..	..	3
No. of contraventions remedied	..	..	..	3

Milk Distributors

Other food premises

No. of inspections made 52
 No. of contraventions found 2

Slaughterhouses

No. on register	5
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Shops Act, 1950

No. of shops inspected	64
No. of contraventions found	1
No. of contraventions remedied	1

Factories and Workshops Act, 1937-1948

No. on register	..	..	..	..	..	..	25
No. of inspections made	..	..	..	..	..	..	32
No. of contraventions found	..	..	..	..	..	..	1

Meat Inspection

Carcasses and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part:

		Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and lambs	Pigs
Number killed	..	336	25	—	1289	1395
Number inspected	..	336	25	—	1289	1395
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci						
Whole carcases condemned		—	—	—	10	8
Carcasses of which some part of organ was condemned		25	1	—	22	49
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	..	6.8%	4%	—	2.4%	4.8%
Tuberculosis only						
Whole carcases condemned		1	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part of organ was condemned	..	9	1	—	—	33
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	..	2.7%	4%	—	—	2.3%

Other foods condemned

83 lbs. tinned meats	}	Damaged or blown
87½ lbs. fruit and vegetables		containers.

J. H. EYRE, PRINTER, MARKET RASEN